Separate Ministry for Kashmir affairs

*444. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:
SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether experts have given a suggestion for creating a separate Ministry for Kashmir Affairs in view of the failure to check terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir valley; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) No such proposal has been made to the Government of India.

(b) Question does not arise.

Special Packages for North-East

*447. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government stand committed to implement the special packages of programmes for speedy economic development of the North-Eastern States as announced by the two former Prime Ministers;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken for their early implementation; and

(c) what is the progress of work in the various programmes of development under these packages?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government stands committed to implement the special package of programmes for speedy economic development of North-Eastern States as announced by the two former Prime Ministers. A Cell in the Prime Minister's Office and the North-East Division in the Ministry of Home Affairs are regularly monitoring the implementation of the package.

(c) The progress of work in respect of certain major programmes is as follows:—

(i) **Power** The Doyang Hydro-electric Project (75MW) is likely to be commissioned by May 2000 and Ranganadi Hydro-electric Project (405 MW) by September, 2001. The Turial HEP (60 MW) and the Loktak Downstream HEP (90 MW) have been sanctioned.